

# Drought Status and Outlook

## Latest Drought Information Statement

October 7, 2021

National Weather Service Spokane

# Extreme to Exceptional Drought for the Inland NW

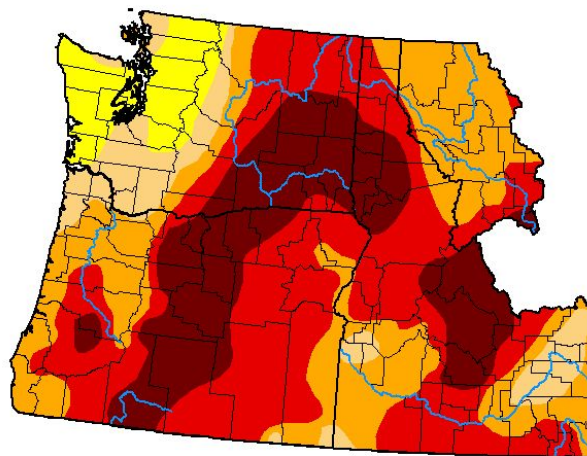


## U.S. Drought Monitor Pacific Northwest DEWS

Exceptional (D4) drought improved across parts of north central and northeast Washington over the last several weeks. It still continues much of the Columbia Basin and Palouse region. This summer has been the first time in 20 years that the Drought Monitor has had D4 in Washington state.

Extreme drought (D3) continues across parts of central Washington near the northern Cascades and in the far northern Idaho Panhandle.

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



October 5, 2021

(Released Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	93.33	84.83	58.20	22.85
Last Week 09-28-2021	0.00	100.00	93.35	84.83	57.49	24.06
3 Months Ago 07-06-2021	1.13	98.87	86.68	66.28	31.73	3.18
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	38.14	61.86	40.77	27.90	10.74	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	0.00	100.00	93.35	84.83	57.49	24.06
One Year Ago 10-06-2020	19.47	80.53	52.93	30.06	14.46	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center



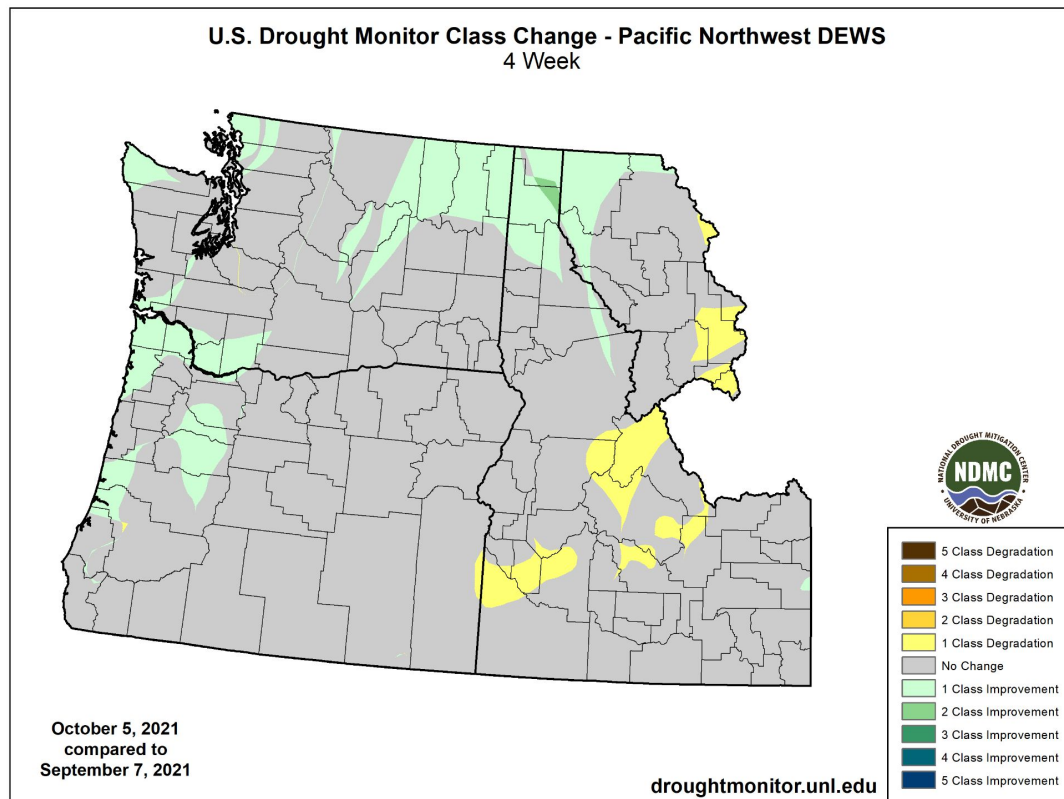
[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

# One Month Drought Change



Rainfall from mid August through September has been beneficial. There have been improvements in the Drought Monitor in the last month across Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille and Douglas counties in Washington and across Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai and Shoshone counties in Idaho.

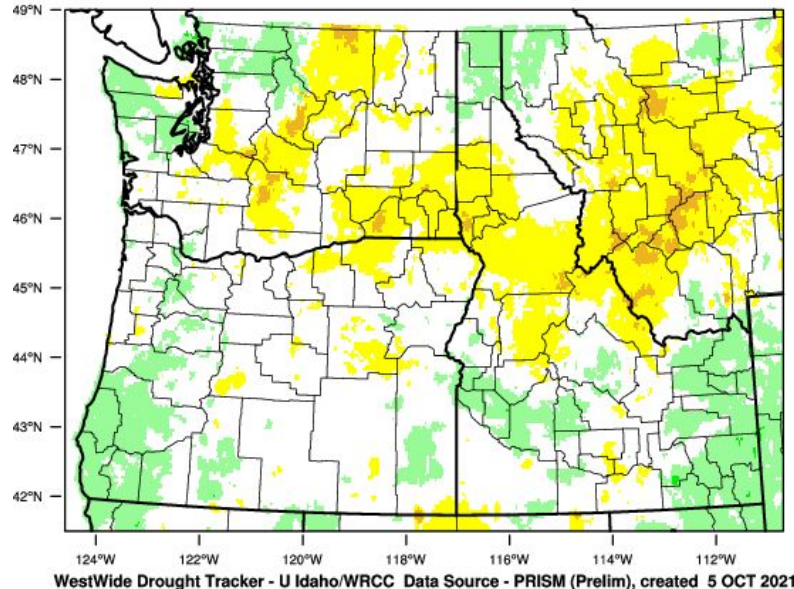
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Map/ChangeMaps.aspx>



# Summer 2021 in Review



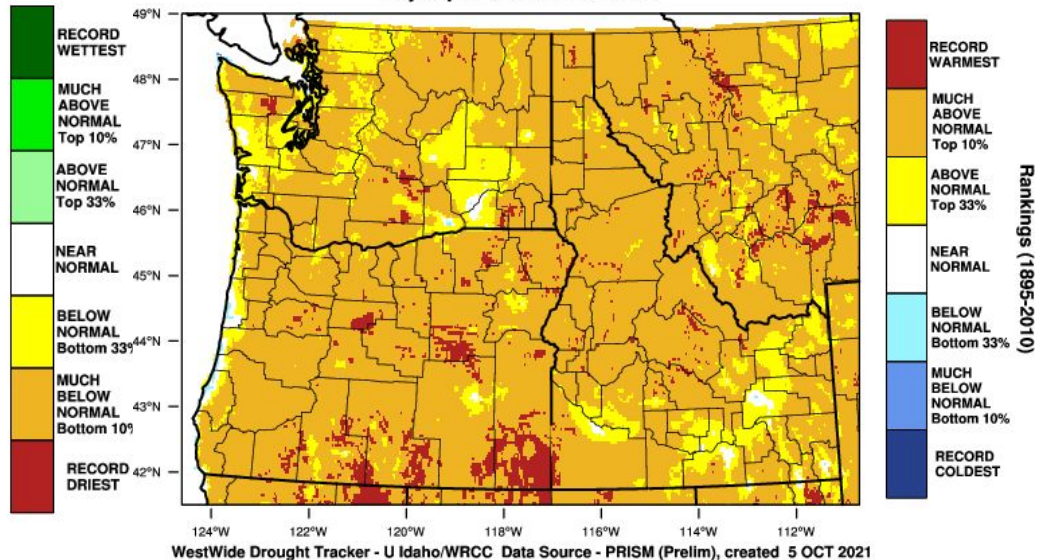
**Pacific Northwest - Precipitation**  
July-September 2021 Percentile



Below normal precipitation spanned across much of the Inland Northwest, despite the rain from mid August to September.

<https://wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/index.php>

**Pacific Northwest - Mean Temperature**  
July-September 2021 Percentile



Temperatures were still much above normal for the region.

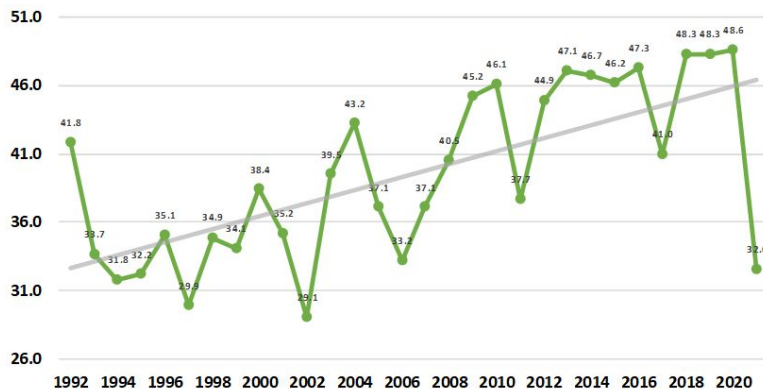
# Drought Impacts - Agriculture



## Other Spring Wheat Yield United States



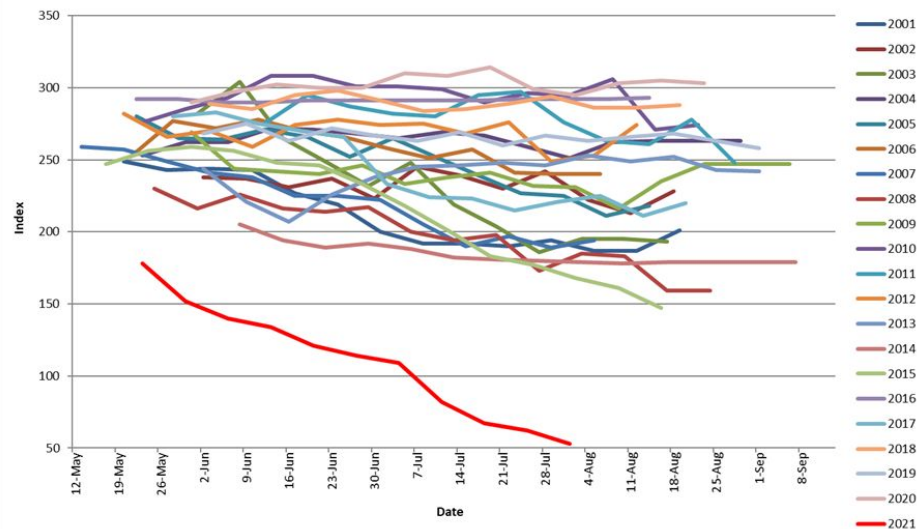
Bushels per Acre



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

September 30, 2021

## WA SPRING WHEAT Condition Index



Based on NASS crop progress data.

Spring wheat had low yields across parts of Lincoln, Adams, Grant, Spokane, Whitman, Asotin, Garfield, Stevens, Pend Oreille and Okanogan counties in WA and in Benewah, Kootenai, Nez Perce and Lewis counties Idaho. Thanks to recent rains, crop reports show winter wheat planting is 60-70% complete

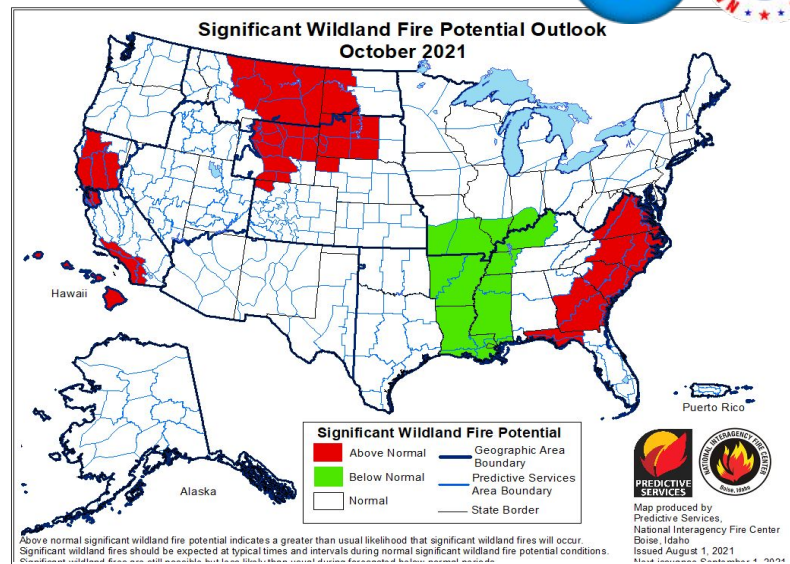
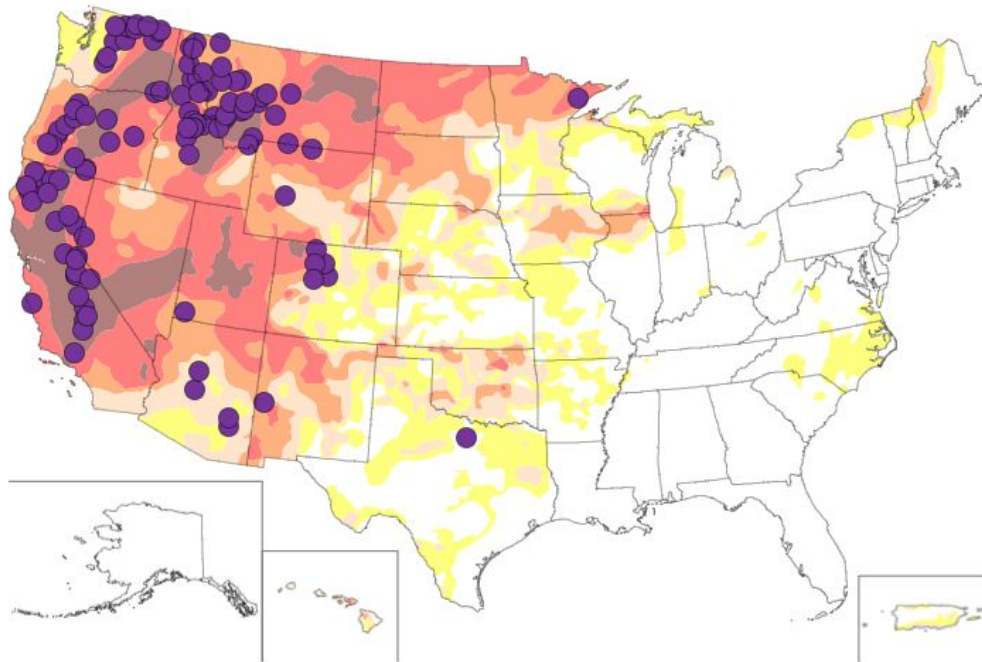
[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Charts\\_and\\_Maps/Field\\_Crops/swyld.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Charts_and_Maps/Field_Crops/swyld.php)



# Drought Impacts - Wildfires



## Current Fire Conditions: Active Wildfires



### Active Wildfires

Active Fire

### U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): National Wildfire Coordinating Group, U.S. Drought Monitor  
Updates Daily - 08/18/21

**Drought.gov**

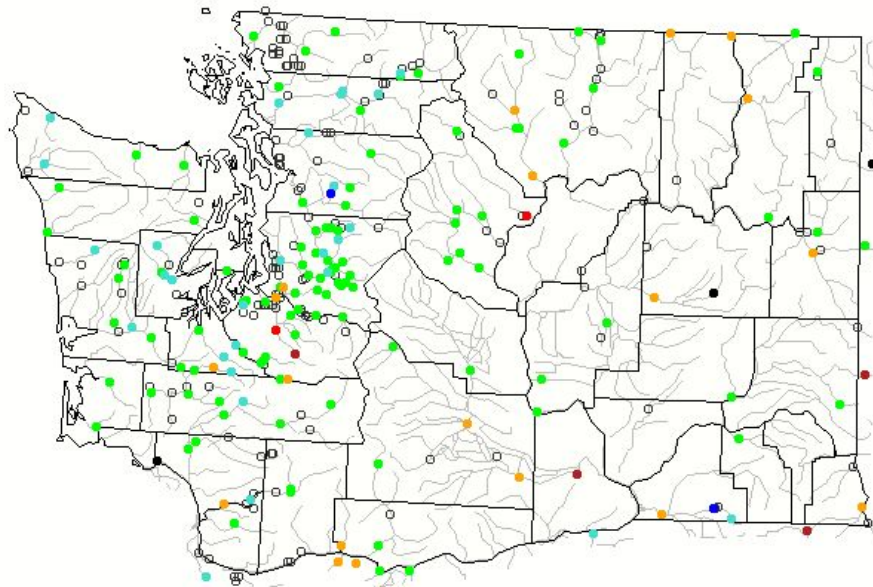
Summer lightning events ignited multiple wildfires across the Inland NW, both grasslands and timber. Breezy dry winds increased fire spread and acreage for many of the fires along with the smoke. Since mid September, wildfire activity has slowed across the Inland NW and near normal activity is expected. <https://www.drought.gov/topics/fire>

# Drought Impacts - Streamflows

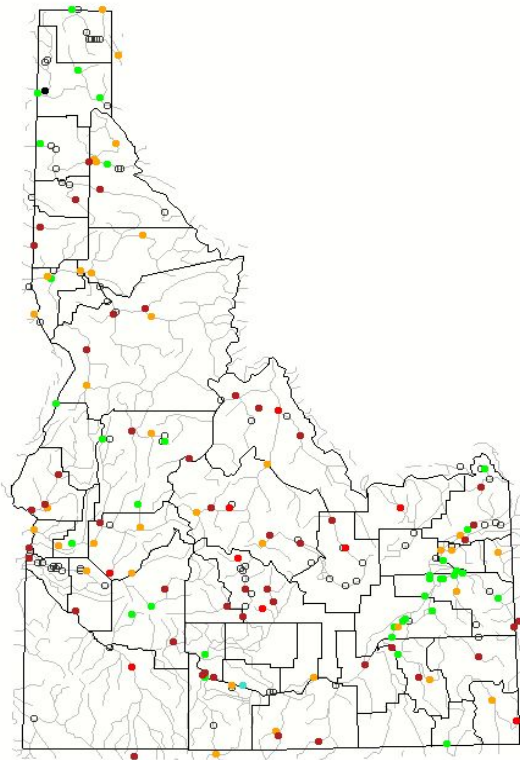


Thursday, October 07, 2021 14:30ET

Thursday, October 07, 2021 14:30ET

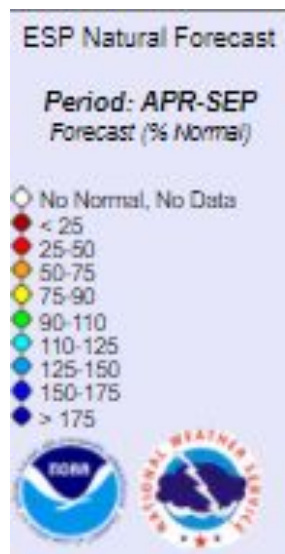


USGS



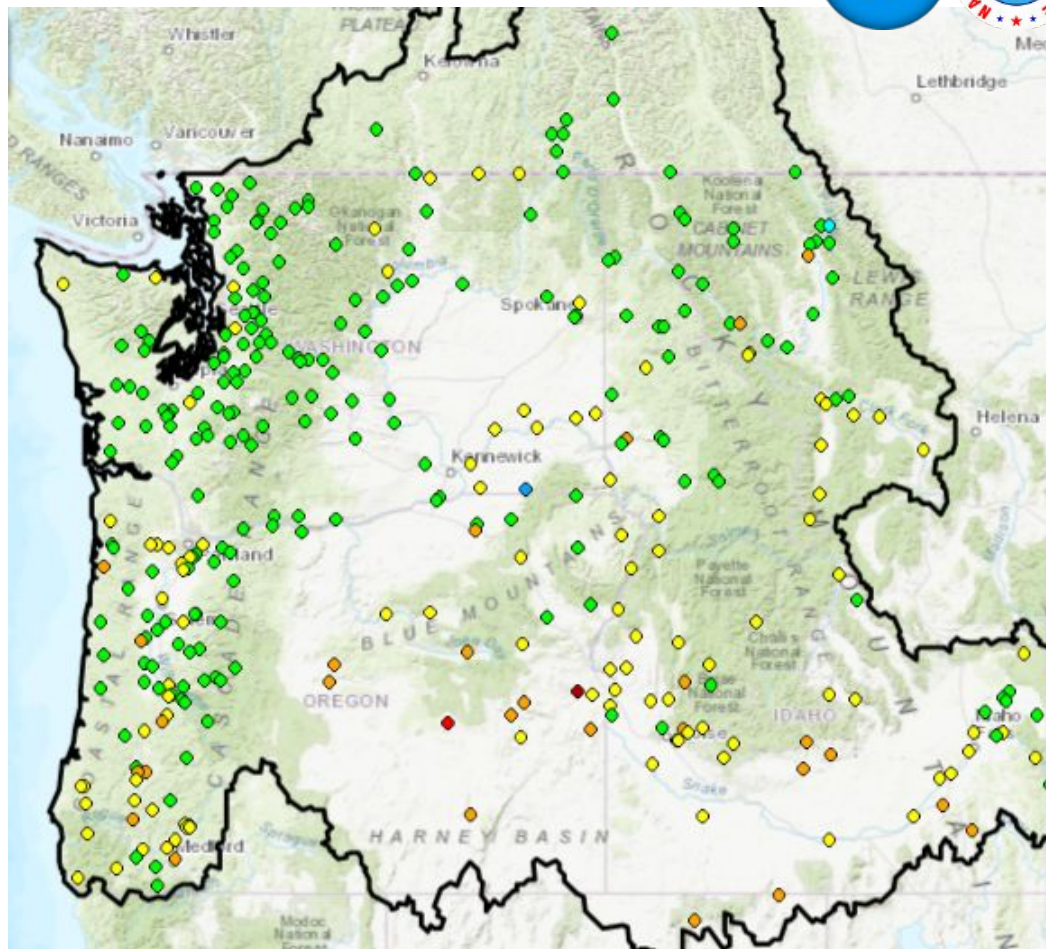
Recent rains have boosted stream flows across north central and northeast Washington along with parts of north Idaho. Parts of the Columbia Basin and Idaho Palouse are still running below normal. <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/>

# NWRFC Water Supply Forecast



October 1st marks a new Water Year. The updated water supply forecast looks optimistic for the coming year.

<https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc/>



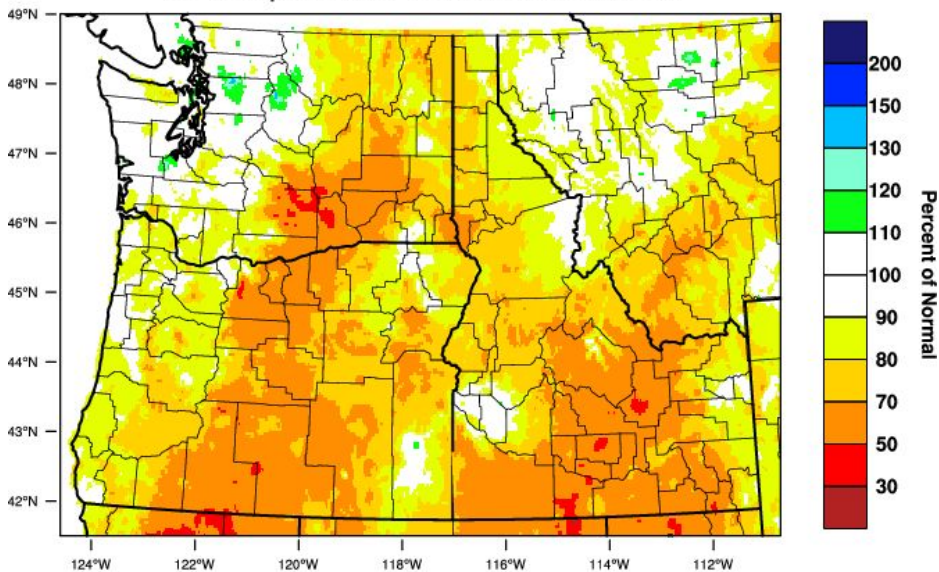


# Water Year Precipitation & Temperatures



## Pacific Northwest - Precipitation

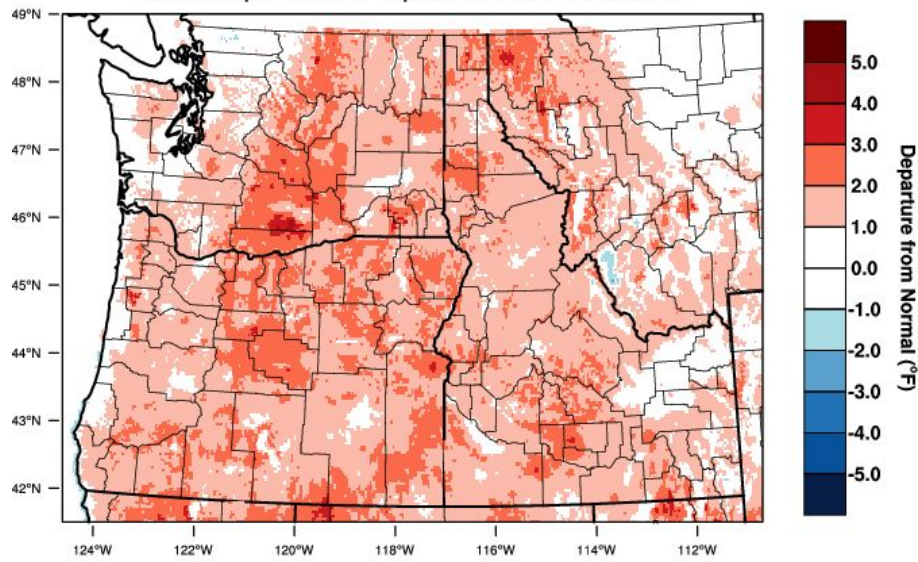
October-September 2021 Percent of 1981-2010 Normal



WestWide Drought Tracker - U Idaho/WRCC Data Source - PRISM (Prelim), created 5 OCT 2021

## Pacific Northwest - Mean Temperature

October-September 2021 Departure from 1981-2010 Normal



WestWide Drought Tracker - U Idaho/WRCC Data Source - PRISM (Prelim), created 5 OCT 2021

For the Water Year 2021, (October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021) precipitation was below normal for much of the Inland Northwest. The exception being the east slopes of the Cascades where winter mountain snowfall was above normal. Temperatures were above normal across the Inland Northwest.

<https://wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/index.php>

# CPC One Month Outlook ~ October

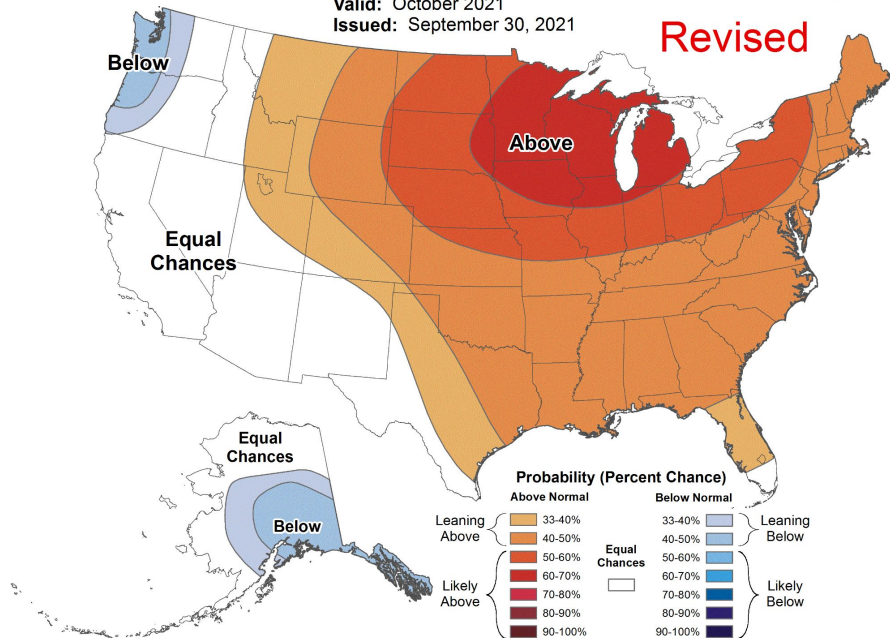


## Monthly Temperature Outlook



Valid: October 2021  
Issued: September 30, 2021

Revised

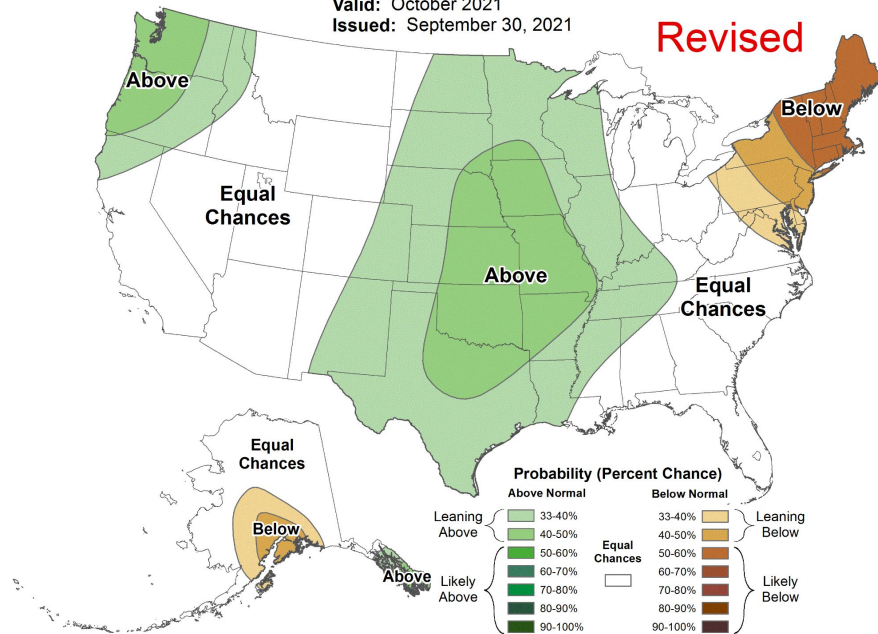


## Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Valid: October 2021  
Issued: September 30, 2021

Revised



The October outlook from the Climate Prediction Center favors increased odds of seasonal temperatures and above normal precipitation for the Inland Northwest. <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>

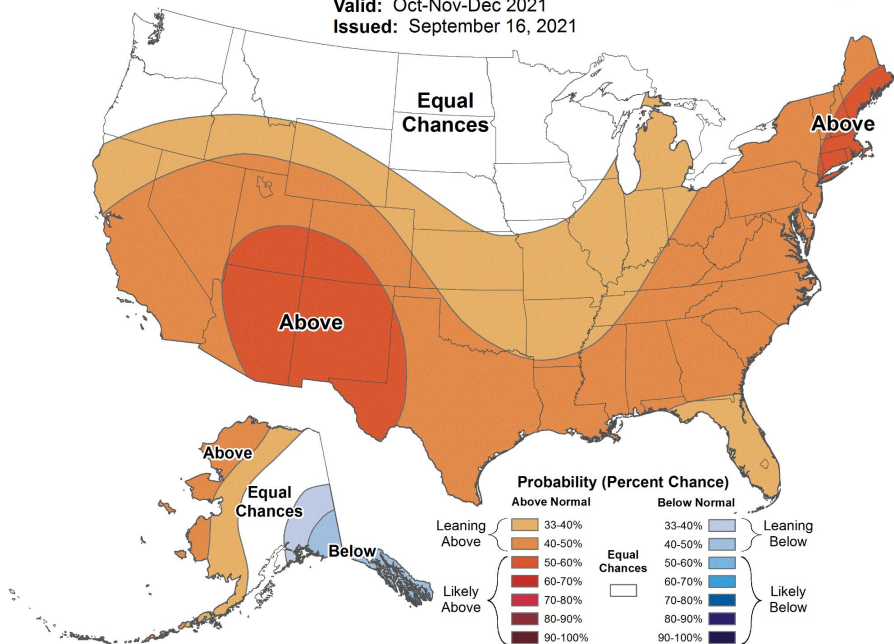
# CPC Three Month Outlook ~ Oct - Nov - Dec



## Seasonal Temperature Outlook



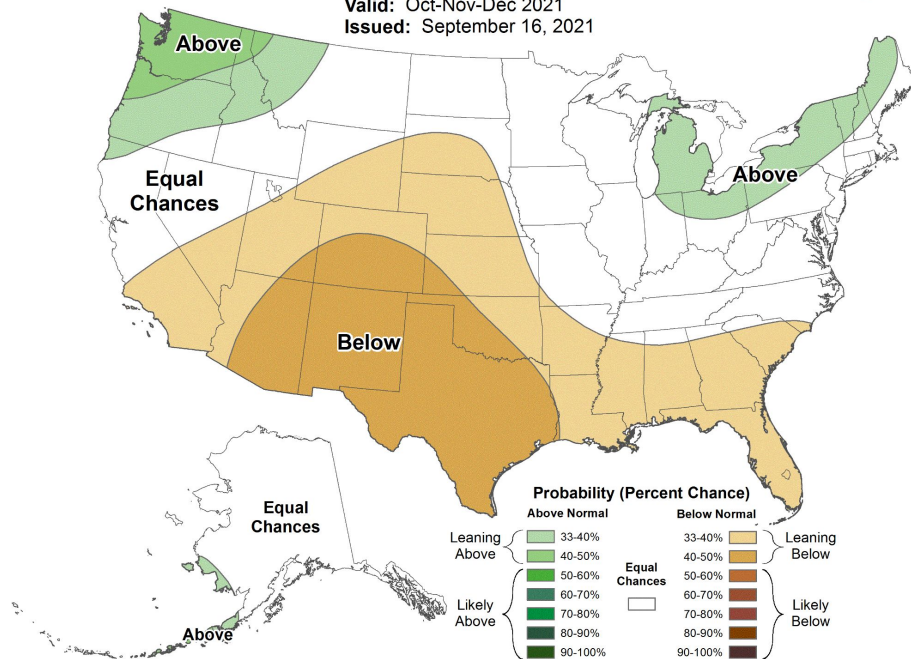
Valid: Oct-Nov-Dec 2021  
Issued: September 16, 2021



## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Oct-Nov-Dec 2021  
Issued: September 16, 2021



The three month outlook from the Climate Prediction Center for October through Dec leans toward equal chances of at, below or near normal temperature and above normal precipitation.

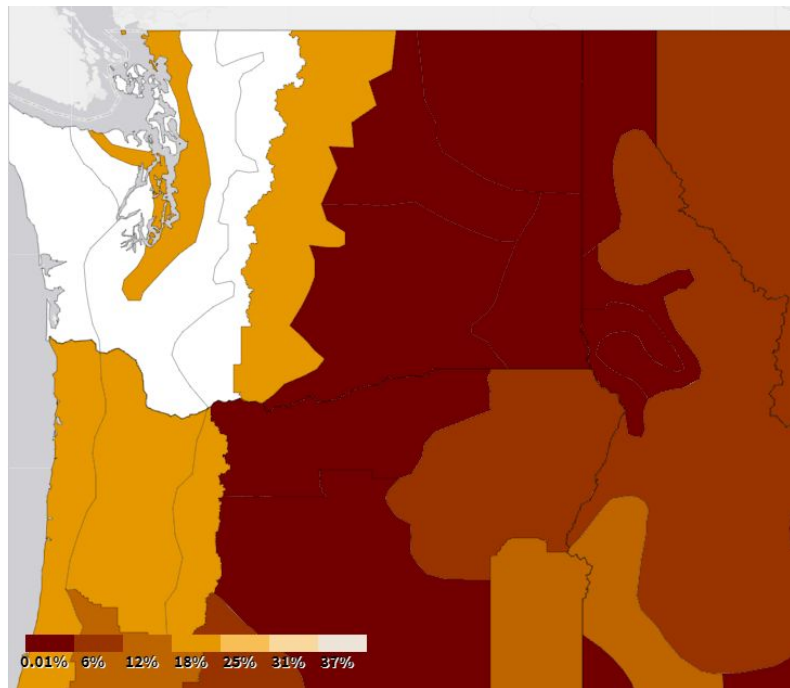
<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>



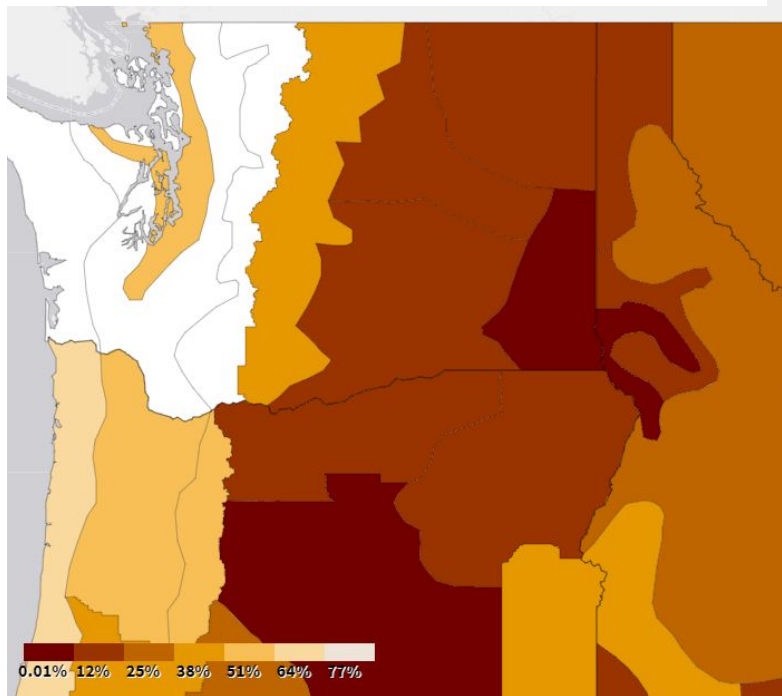
# Chances of Improving or Ending Drought



## Chances of Ending Drought in 6 Months



## Chances of Improving Drought in 6 Months



Looking forward through the upcoming winter season, the chances for ending or improving drought conditions looks slim across the Inland Northwest, even if we had a normal winter precipitation.

<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/drought/recovery/current>

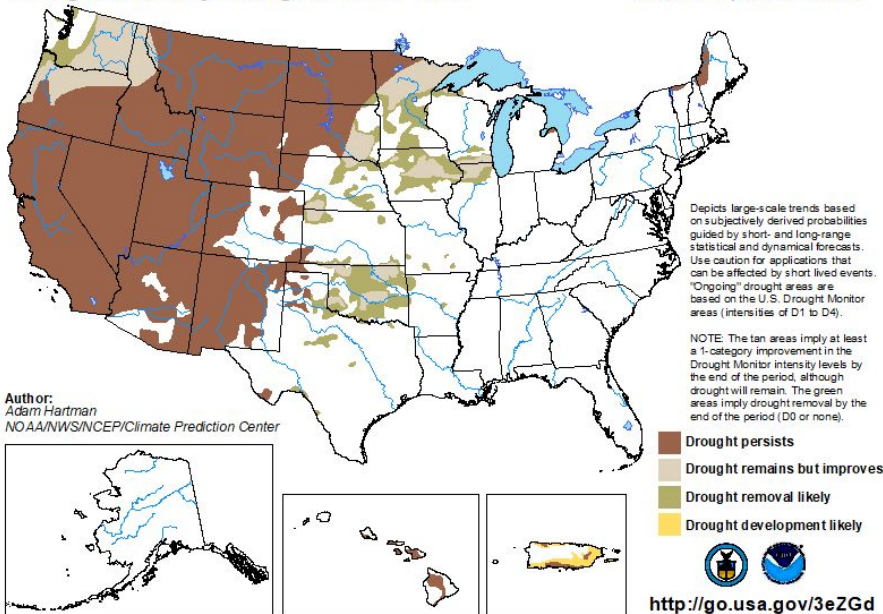


# Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook



## U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

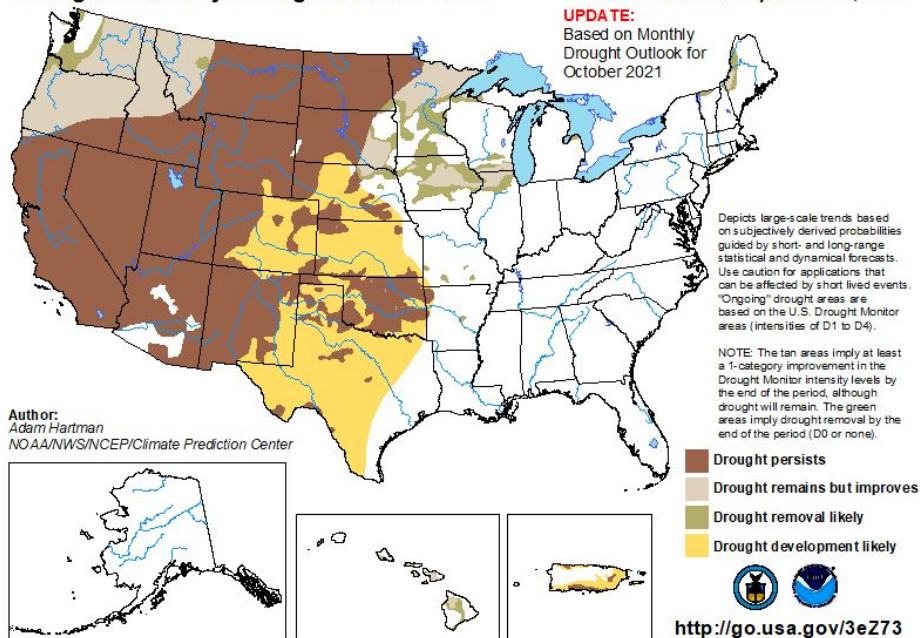
Valid for October 2021  
Released September 30, 2021



## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period


Valid for October 1 - December 31, 2021  
Released September 30, 2021

**UPDATE:**  
Based on Monthly  
Drought Outlook for  
October 2021




The Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlooks indicate that drought conditions will persist through the next several months with some improvements likely. <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

# Drought Summary

- 
- Despite small improvements, drought conditions will likely continue across the Inland Northwest this fall with Extreme to Exceptional Drought in many areas.
  - The Seasonal Outlook favors seasonal temperatures and above normal precipitation through the next few months.
  - Despite the summer drought impacts in agriculture, wildfires and stream flows, recent rainfall has shown a decrease in impacts early this fall.
  - With the new Water Year, the upcoming water supply forecast looks optimistic for the coming year.
  - Please report any drought conditions or impacts to NWS Spokane at [nws.spokane@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.spokane@noaa.gov) or through the National Drought Mitigation Center at <https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/>

# Drought Related Web Sites



U.S. Drought Portal: [www.drought.gov](http://www.drought.gov)

US Drought Monitor: [www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Western Region Climate Center: [/www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu)

Climate Prediction Center: [www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

National Interagency Coordination Center: [www.nifc.gov](http://www.nifc.gov)

USGS Streamflows: [www.waterwatch.usgs.gov](http://www.waterwatch.usgs.gov)

NWS Water Supply Forecasts: [www.nwrfc.noaa.gov](http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov)

US Army Corps of Engineers: [www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil)

NRCS Water Supply Forecasts: [www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov)

Idaho Department of Water Resources: [www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov)

Idaho Climate Office: [www.uidaho.edu/extension/climate-services](http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/climate-services)

Washington Department of Ecology: [www.ecology.wa.gov](http://www.ecology.wa.gov)

Washington Climate Office: [www.climate.washington.edu](http://www.climate.washington.edu)

NWS Spokane: [www.weather.gov/Spokane](http://www.weather.gov/Spokane)